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GENERAL

CIA-5

1. British view concerning Soviet tactics at CFM--US Embassy
Moscow transmits the view of the British Charge that although the possibility of a major shift in Soviet tactics at the forthcoming meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers cannot be excluded, the Kremlin is not likely to risk its grip on eastern Germany in exchange for a weaker position in all Germany. The British Charge estimates that at the CFM meeting the USSR will present vague and unacceptable proposals which can be exploited by Soviet propaganda, thereby seeking to delay the integration of western Germany into the political and economic system of the West and to weaken the resolution of the western peoples to carry out the North Atlantic Treaty. US Embassy Moscow reiterates its view, however, that a major Soviet tactical shift may develop at the CFM meeting and declares that in any event the western delegations must be prepared for such an eventuality.

(CIA Comment: CIA agrees with the estimate of US Embassy Moscow concerning the possibility of a Soviet tactical shift.)

2. Reaction of Soviet public to lifting of blockade--US Embassy
Moscow observes that the reaction of the Soviet public to the lifting of the Berlin blockade is decidedly restrained and not at all comparable to the popular reaction to the Smith-Molotov exchange of a year ago or the Stalin-Kingsbury Smith correspondence of last February. The Embassy believes that this reaction is chiefly caused by: (a) the paucity of information available to the Soviet public on the Berlin blockade and a consequent ignorance of the seriousness of the situation; and (b) the lack of attention given the recent agreement by Soviet propaganda, combined with a continuation of anti-US propaganda and the recent jamming of US and British broadcasts.

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FAR EAST

3. KOREA: Approval of US troop withdrawal expected--US Ambassador Muccio at Seoul indicates, in reply to a Department of State query regarding a re-appraisal of US policy on the withdrawal of occupation troops from the Korean Republic, that his recent requests for military equipment do not imply any need for a fundamental revision in policy. Muccio believes that although recent border incidents and troop defections, as well as Communist successes in China, have made the Rhee Government increasingly apprehensive, Rhee's approval of the scheduled 30 June withdrawal can be facilitated by favorable US action on the modest request for a few coast guard vessels and several observation and transport planes.

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